

Juanita Collazo  
2021 Albany Ave, #171  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
860-570-6969  
Testimony against HB6380

My name is Juanita Collazo. I am a client of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind and I reside at Saint Mary Home which is in West Hartford. I am testifying against bill number 6380. I feel that if you consolidate BESB with the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services that a lot of the blind community will fall through the cracks. If it wasn't for BESB, I wouldn't be living here at Saint Mary Home. I also wouldn't be working at CW Resources as a receptionist. I am getting a lot of support from BESB. If you consolidate BESB with these two agencies, you are saying that the blind people or the blind community doesn't need to learn to be independent, vocational training, or most of all, mobility skills. I am asking that if you can find it in your heart, keep BESB an independent agency. Thank you very much.